

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.114 is respectfully requested, noting that this Amendment is filed as a Submission concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Claims 1-7, 9-12 and 15-20 are now pending in this application, new claims 18-20 having been added by the present Amendment. In the final Office Action dated November 19, 2007, claims 1-5 were rejected. Claims 6-7, 9-12 and 15-17 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claim 1, as amended herein, corresponds to the unentered amendment to claim 1 submitted with the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 filed on November 19, 2007. The patentability arguments with respect to claim 1 submitted with the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 filed on November 19, 2007 are hereby incorporated by reference. In the event the Examiner does not find these arguments persuasive, the Examiner is requested to address these arguments in the next Office Action.

Finally, clarification regarding the Advisory Action mailed on December 4, 2007 is respectfully requested. More specifically, the Examiner checked Item 11 of the Advisory Action indicating that "The request for reconsideration has been considered but does not place the application in condition for allowance...[the] claims as finally rejected do not distinguish the claimed apparatus from the cited prior art." See Item 11 and Continuation Sheet.

However, in the Amendment under §1.116 filed on November 19, 2007, applicants did not request reconsideration of the finally rejected claims. As is clear from the Amendment filed

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Art Unit: 2872

Submission of Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
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on November 19, 2007, applicants further amended the finally rejected claims. Therefore, Item 11 of the Advisory Action appears to be an erroneous entry on the part of the Examiner. If applicants' understanding is not correct, clarification is requested.

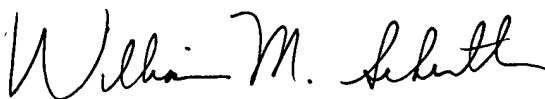
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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